

Application No.: 09/966,557

Case No.: 55871US002

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed March 7, 2006. Claims 1-19 and claims 21-26 are rejected in this application.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 13, 17, 18 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yamamoto (U.S. 6,002,460). Applicants disagree. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed element. Yamamoto fails to do so.

In particular, the claimed invention is directed to a film that encompasses a polarization element and a polarization rotator element in a single film. The Examiner has asserted that Yamamoto, in Figure 2, shows this feature. In doing so, the Examiner notes that the claimed invention "states that the polarization element and the polarization rotator are separate layers integrated into a single film." Yes, the claimed invention integrates two distinct layers into a single film, but it should be noted that the result is actually a film.

Anyone of ordinary skill in the art, having read the instant specification, would understand what a film is. In stark contrast, Yamamoto describes a laminate structure that includes two layers of glass sandwiching a liquid crystal layer. Yamamoto does not describe or suggest a film. A film may be processed, for example, using roll to roll processing. A film is typically considered to be flexible. A film may be polymeric. Yamamoto's glass sandwich certainly does not qualify as a film. An individual of ordinary skill in the art would recognize and appreciate this significant difference between the claimed invention and the cited art. Yamamoto cannot reasonably be considered as anticipatory.

Moreover, with respect to claim 8, the Examiner has stated that "the polarization rotator (12) cooperates as far as alignment is concerned with the polarization element (15; col. 5, lines 10-24)." This is simply incorrect. Cooperation is not the same as facilitation. The cited portion of the reference is silent as to facilitating alignment of the polarization rotator element. Moreover, claim 8 requires that the polarization element includes a surface that facilitates alignment of the polarization rotator element. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that this claimed feature

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means that the surface that facilitates alignment would be in physical contact with the polarization rotator element. As previously discussed, Yamamoto fails to describe this relationship and once again cannot be considered as anticipatory.

With respect to the other dependent claims addressed by the Examiner, Applicants note that the previous Amendment provided comments pertaining to why the Examiner was incorrect in his assertions regarding these claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 5, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto (U.S. 6,002,460) in view of Hansen (U.S. 5,986,730). Applicants disagree. Hansen fails to at least remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto by not providing the missing claimed elements and/or by not providing the required motivation to modify Yamamoto to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the claims 3, 14, and 15 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 6, 7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto (U.S. 6,002,460) in view of Shingaki (EP 0 487 047). Applicants disagree. Shingaki fails to at least remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto by not providing the missing claimed elements and/or by not providing the required motivation to modify Yamamoto to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the claims 6, 7, and 10-12 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto (U.S. 6,002,460). Yamamoto fails to describe, at least, a single film as described above. In addition, Yamamoto fails to provide the required motivation to modify Yamamoto to arrive at the claimed single film. Applicants submit that the claims 16 and 19 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

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CONCLUSION

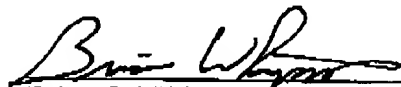
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims. Prompt passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact their representative at the number listed below.

Please continue to transmit all correspondence to:

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Respectfully Submitted,

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